GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3550
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
ELECTORAL PROCESS IN J & K
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM`s call to the militants and separatist political leaders to join the electoral process in J&K has evoke a strong reaction from militant groups operating inside and outside India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any meeting with the separatist political leaders and militants has been held in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for solving the Kashmir problem and to conduct smooth election?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): The PM`s call has evoked strong reactions from pro-Pak militant groups, to the extent that they have issued threats of stern action against those who participate in elections.

(c)&(d): No such proposal is presently under consideration.

(e): Besides diplomatic initiatives, the Government, conjointly with the State Government, have adopted a multi-dimensional strategy to solve the problem. The three major prongs of the strategy are
(i) proactive tackling of cross border terrorism within J&K,
(ii) accelerating economic development in the State and
(iii) continuing to remain open to talks with all groups of people within the State who eschew the path of violence.

All possible assistance as required by the Election Commission of India for smooth conduct of elections is provided at the appropriate time.